

LOWCOUNTRY TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION

LOCAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

FOR THE **2024** SOUTHERN COMBO  
DOUBLES PROGRAM

## INTRODUCTION

The following are the regulations for the USTA League Tennis Southern Combo Doubles Program in the Lowcountry Tennis Association of the South Carolina State of the Southern Section, and they apply to the 18 & Over Age Group, the 40 & Over Age Group, the 55 & Over Age Group, and the 65 & Over Age Group. These regulations augment the **2024** Southern Combo Doubles Regulations; the **2024** USTA South Carolina Southern Combo Doubles Regulations, the Lowcountry Tennis Association Constitution and the Lowcountry Tennis Association By-Laws. All of the regulations mentioned can be found on the Lowcountry Tennis Association web site ([www.lctatennis.org](http://www.lctatennis.org)) For the most part, Local League Regulations do not repeat rules and regulations found in the other documents. In those instances where a regulation is repeated, it is repeated verbatim. For a person to understand the full set of regulations that apply to the Lowcountry Tennis Association, it is necessary to have copies of all of the regulations mentioned above. These regulations can be found on the Lowcountry Tennis Association website ([www.lctatennis.org](http://www.lctatennis.org)).

0.02 USTA Southern Section, and USTA South Carolina State regulations take precedence over the Lowcountry Tennis Association Local League Regulations. If any conflicts occur, the Local League Regulations will be overruled by the other regulations.

0.03 It may be necessary to correct or change the Local League Regulations in order to react to changes in Southern Section or South Carolina State regulations.

## 1.0 GENERAL

### 1.07 TENNIS BALLS

The home team must furnish one can of unopened yellow or white Ball Type 1 (fast-regular felt) or Ball Type 2 (medium-heavy duty felt) tennis balls for each individual match to be played. The Penn pink tennis balls are not approved by the USTA and thus cannot be used for League Tennis play.

### 1.18 SECTIONAL LEAGUE COORDINATORS

The Southern Section has appointed Chris Walling as Sectional League Coordinator to implement and administer the USTA League Tennis Program in accordance with the USTA League Tennis Regulations.

### 1.19 STATE LEAGUE COORDINATOR (SLC)

- A. The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the USTA/South Carolina USTA League Tennis Program:

Patricia "PJ" Fulmer  
18 Woodcross Drive  
Columbia, SC 29212  
fulmer@sctennis.com  
(803) 781-2574 ext. 113  
803.319.1572

#### 1.20 LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATORS

- A. The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the Lowcountry Tennis Association USTA League Tennis Program and to interpret the Lowcountry Tennis Association Local League Regulations:

Doreen "Dee" Mack  
107 Claret Cup Way  
Charleston, SC 42941  
hotback4@gmail.com  
(843) 568-0391

- B. The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the Lowcountry Tennis Association Southern Combo Doubles League Tennis Program and to interpret Lowcountry Tennis Association Local League Regulations for Combo Doubles:

Nancy Pitcairn  
680 Pawley Road  
Mt Pleasant, SC 29464  
[ncpit2@gmail.com](mailto:ncpit2@gmail.com)  
(843) 270-6865

#### 1.21 TEAM CAPTAIN

Each team shall appoint a team captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in Lowcountry Tennis Association matters. It is recommended that the team captain be a playing member of the team, but, in no circumstances, may an individual be a team captain of more than one 18 & Over Age Group team at the same level of play or more than one 40 & Over Age Group team at the same level of play or more than one 55 & Over Age Group team at the same level of play or more than one 65 & Over Age Group team at the same level of play, though an individual could be the captain of one 18 & Over Age Group team or one 40 &

Over Age Group team or one 55 & Over Age Group team or one 65 & Over Age Group team at the same level of play, or of multiple 18 & Over Age Group teams, and/or multiple 40 & Over Age Group teams and/or multiple 55 & Over Age Group teams and/or multiple 65 & Over Age Group teams at different levels of play. The team captain, or an acting team captain, must be present at every match. Each team may also appoint a co-captain. Both the captain and co-captain (if there is one) must have valid email addresses and telephone numbers in TennisLink.

#### 1.24 LOCAL LEAGUE SEASON

The season for the Lowcountry Tennis Association Southern Combo Doubles Local League shall be from **June 24, 2024, to September 18, 2024.**

#### 1.25 OUT OF AREA TEAMS

If teams are accepted and moved from other leagues and/or tennis associations to play in the Lowcountry Tennis Association, those teams will play all of their matches at Lowcountry Tennis Association sites. The Lowcountry Tennis Association geographic area is the South Carolina Counties of Charleston, Colleton, Berkeley, and Dorchester.

##### **SINGLETON TEAMS:**

##### **Number of Teams.**

Singleton teams: If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only one team in a level of play, (singleton team), and that level must play a local league in order to advance, the Local League Coordinator has the option to:

(1) Contact the District League Coordinator who can transfer an individual team with no local league play to another area's league tree only if it is agreed upon by both local league coordinators and accomplished before that recipient area's deadline.

- Complete teams that are moved to play in a local league area other than their home local league must secure home courts in that local league they choose to participate unless both local league coordinators agree on something different.
- If an individual team is transferred into an already existing league of at least 2 teams, then that team must secure home courts in that host local league where they have been moved and if that transferred team wins that league, they will represent that host league at the State Championship.
  - The transferred team must follow all rules and regulations of the host league.
  - The host league is responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration.

- If Local League coordinators agree to combine individual teams from more than one area to form a league for those teams to qualify, the winning team from that individual league will be allowed to represent the Local League where they initially registered.
  - Rules and regulation issues that occur during league play for these individual teams will be handled by the District League Coordinator in consultation with the Local League coordinators that are involved.
  - The area that is represented by the winning team will be responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration for that team.

(2) Offer to move that team to another age division offered in that area in that level, if applicable.

(3) Move individual players to another team in that area, if applicable, or move them to an “Extra Players” flight to hold for future play in other leagues, i.e., Mixed, Combo, etc.

(4) Refund or credit all or a portion of the registration fee in accordance with the Local League policy.

## 1.26 COURT FACILITIES

Each team participating in the Lowcountry Tennis Association (LCTA) must guarantee the use of three courts at one location for all LCTA regularly scheduled and make-up matches. Any approved USTA surface is permissible, including indoor and outdoor (clay or hard) surfaces. The choice of surfaces is the prerogative of the home team, and more than one surface may be used for a single team match. The home team must identify which individual matches will be played on which surfaces prior to either team turning in the line-up for that day’s play. If the court surface of the home team’s choice is not available but alternate court surfaces at the home team facility are available and playable, the available and playable surfaces must be used. The home team is responsible to have courts available and playable at match time. If the court surface of the home team’s choice is not available but alternate court surfaces at the home team facility are available and playable, the available and playable surfaces must be used.

The following further defined the number of teams that may form at a facility: A maximum of 2 teams for every 3 courts can be accommodated. If a facility will commit the following - 3-5 courts - 2 teams; 6-8 courts - 4 teams; 9 or more courts - 6 teams at a facility. In the case of

Charleston Tennis Center, more teams can be accommodated by using Bees Ferry; for Maybank, additional teams can be accommodated by using Alan Fleming courts.

### 1.27 COACHING AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. No coaching is allowed in the LCTA Combo 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over or 65 & Over Age groups.
- B. There are no linespersons or referees for LCTA matches. If a conflict occurs during match play over line calls, the players involved may request their captains to appoint a linesperson for the remainder of the match.
- C. Foot faults are illegal. Constant and blatant foot faulting giving the server a definite advantage should be politely brought to the attention of the server. If the foot-faulting continues, the players involved may request the captains to appoint a linesperson for the remainder of the match.
- D. Players should call the score after each point to avoid confusion. If there is disagreement over the score, players should go back to the last agreed upon point.
- E. Spectators may not aid players in making a line call or in determining the correct score. Spectators should not participate in the match in any way and should refrain from doing so even if asked by the players.
- F. Spectators may quietly watch a match in progress. They should not sit or stand at the end of the court immediately behind the servers or receivers if it is distracting to the players. Spectators may quietly clap for points well played. It should be remembered that the well-played point should be applauded regardless of who won the point. It is poor tennis etiquette to clap for unforced errors.
- G. It is the responsibility of the team captain to control the noise and behavior of team spectators. Loud, boisterous or unsportsmanlike behavior is unacceptable. If a problem arises with a spectator, both players should ask the spectator to refrain from the offensive behavior. If the behavior persists, the team captains should be summoned to handle the situation. If necessary, a grievance should be filed.
- H. Coaches and club professionals must not interfere in discussions or negotiations between players or captains unless specifically asked by both captains for advice. Even then, it is the responsibility of the two captains, not the coach or professional, to decide on the appropriate resolution.

I. Disputes should be settled between players as soon as they arise. All points played in good faith stand. Players should be able to resolve any dispute by themselves. If, however, they cannot, they should do the following:

- (1) The player should inform the opponent of the problem and intention to leave the court to obtain the assistance of the team captain. When leaving the court, the racket should be left on the court.
- (2) The captain should contact the opponent's captain and they should try to resolve the dispute. If the captains are involved in playing a match, the players may have to postpone their play until the captains are available to assist them.
- (3) If the captains and players cannot agree on a resolution to the conflict, the offended player(s) may either:
  - (i) Continue to play the match, but do so under protest. The score and who was serving at the time of the protest will be indicated on the scorecard with the annotation, "played under protest." At the conclusion of the match, the offended player may or may not file a written grievance. If no grievance is filed, the results of the match stand as completed.
  - (ii) Stop play, ensuring both captains and the opponent know why. Indicate on the scorecard that the match was stopped in protest and indicate the score and who was serving at the time the match was stopped. The offended player's captain should file a grievance. If no grievance is filed within the required time frame (see 3.01), the match will be scored as a retirement by the offended player.

## 2.00 COMBO DOUBLES LOCAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

### 2.01 LOCAL LEAGUE

Players may appeal their rating once anytime during the **2024** league year. Players who submit an appeal to their self-rating through the Tennis Link system before the deadline for registering players will be permitted to register up to seven days after the notification of final self-rating. If a player's rating is appealed down during the Combo season, the player must adjust the rating on the roster for the duration of the season and should notify the Combo Coordinator to make update on TennisLink roster. Previous matches by the player would stand. If a player's rating is appealed down after the Combo season, the player may not adjust the rating on the roster and must continue to use the rating on the roster for the remaining championship year. If a player's rating is appealed up during the Combo season, he/she must use that rating for the duration of the Combo season. Previous matches by that player would stand. If a team advances directly to the sectional championships, and registration has closed,

a player must use the level that is listed on the roster and cannot adjust their rostered level when year-end ratings are published.

#### 2.01A NUMBER OF TEAMS

The Lowcountry Tennis Association shall consist of a minimum of two teams in a specific level of competition or flight. In order to accommodate scheduling considerations, the Lowcountry Tennis Association may establish two or more subflights within a flight. The decision to establish two or more flights will be made by the Combo Doubles Coordinator. Subflights will generally not be established where it results in a subflight of fewer than five teams and subflights will not generally exceed 13 teams. The make-up of a subflight will be the result of either a random selection or on the basis of geographical location, as determined by the level coordinator. When using the random selection alternative, the level coordinator may elect to split, to the maximum extent possible, the teams from a single tennis club among subflights.

#### 2.01B TEAM

- 1. A team will consist of a minimum of six players of the same gender able to combine to form 3 eligible teams.**
- 2. All members of a team in 18 & Over Age Group must be at least 18 years of age before registering for an 18 & Over team at any level. Each player over the age of 18 shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league.**
- 3. All members of a team in 40 & Over Age Group must be at least 40 years of age by December 31, 2024.**
- 4. All members of a team in 55 & Over Age Group must be at least 55 years of age by December 31, 2024.**
- 5. All members of a team in 65 & Over Age Group must be at least 65 years of age by December 31, 2024.**

#### 2.01D ENTRY

- 1. Players with a computer rating must play based on that NTRP level.**
- 2. Players with a Mixed, Tournament, Computer, Self-Rating, or Appealed rating within the past year must play at that level.**



3. Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to provide accurate information regarding a player’s tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.

**2.01E LEVELS OF PLAY**

2.01E(1) The Lowcountry Tennis Association Local League has determined that for the league year of **2024** the following levels shall be available if at least two teams register for the level.

18 & Over Combo Doubles: 2.5, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, and 10.5

40 & Over Combo Doubles: 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, and 8.5

55 & Over Combo Doubles: 6.5, 7.5, and 8.5

65 & Over Combo Doubles: 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5

*NOTE:* 65 & Over **and 18 & Over 2.5** is a SC League only – no further advancement past SC State Championships.

2.01E(2) The combined ratings of an on-court partnership must not exceed the level of the flight.

NTRP cap for Combined Levels:

Level	Max Rating
5.5	3.0
6.5	3.5
7.5	4.0
8.5	5.0
9.5	5.5
10.5	6.0

2.01E(3) Each team must have a minimum of three AT LEVEL partnerships registered. For example, a 7.5 team must have at least three 3.5 players and at least three 4.0 players.

**2.01G SCORING AND REST**

2.01G(1) All matches in the 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over Combo League, will be the best of three sets with a match tie break (i.e., first team to win at least 10 points and with at least a two-point margin over the opponent) in lieu of the third set, and a set tie break (i.e., first team to win at least 7 points and with at least a two-point margin over the

opponent) at 6-all in the first two sets. If either a set tiebreak or match tiebreak is needed, the LCTA will use the Coman Tiebreak Procedure.

2.01G (2) A 2-minute break may be taken at the end of each set.

2.01G (3) There will be a changeover, but no break, at the end of the first game of each set.

## 2.01H COMPETITION FORMAT

### 2.01H (1) SCHEDULE FORMAT

#### (a) Regular Season.

- i. Each level of play shall consist of one flight or two or more subflights as discussed in paragraph 2.01A above.
- ii. Each flight/subflight in each division shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team, and each team must play a minimum of three team matches. In a flight with only two or three teams, each team must play a minimum of three matches.
- iii. Flights will only be subdivided into sub-flights when the number of teams registered for a flight is such that it does not allow one full round robin format to be played in the number of weeks allocated or available for play in any particular season.

(b) **Playoffs.** To participate in local playoffs, a player must have played in 1 regular season matches or have 1 default received. Local playoffs are now considered "Championships."

***During local championships, players may advance on more than one team and/or at different NTRP levels, however, no accommodations will be made regarding local championship match schedules.***

***During local championships, team captains are required to submit their line-ups at or before the scheduled match time with all players present. Once both team line-ups have been turned in and if courts are available, all players will be assigned a court and given a can of tennis balls. If the team lineup is not turned in by the scheduled match time, the lateness penalties will be assessed against the entire team.***

#### ***Penalties for Lateness***

***:01-5 Minutes***

***Loss of Toss Plus 1 Game***

<i>5:01-10 Minutes</i>	<i>Loss of Toss Plus 2 Games</i>
<i>10:01-15 Minutes</i>	<i>Loss of Toss Plus 3 Games</i>
<i>More than 15 minutes</i>	<i>Default</i>

- I. **Single Flight.** There will be no Lowcountry Tennis Association playoffs when the division consists of a single flight.
  
- II. **Two Subflights.** When there are two subflights in a division, the play-off format will depend upon the number of teams from the LCTA that will participate in the South Carolina Combo Doubles State Championships.
  - aa. If only one LCTA team will participate in the State Championships, that team will be determined during a single playoff match involving the top team in each subflight.
  
  - bb. If the Lowcountry Tennis Association receives two entries to the State Championships, a round robin playoff, involving the top two teams in each subflight, will be held to determine the final placement of the teams. In the first round, the top team from each subflight will play the number two team in the other subflight. In the second round, the top team in each subflight will play the number two team in its subflight. In the third round, the top teams from each subflight will play each other as will the second-place teams from each subflight. The final placement of teams will be determined according to 3.01H(2)(c) below.
  
  - cc. If the Lowcountry Tennis Association receives more than two entries to the State Championships, the final placement of the teams will be determined during a play-off in a single elimination, eight-draw tournament format consisting of the top three teams from each subflight. The first-place team will be the winner of the play-off. The second-place team will be the losing finalist of the play-off. The third-place team will be the winner of a match between the two losing semi-finalists of the play-off. The fourth-place team will be the loser of a match between the two losing semi-finalists of the play-off. The teams will be seeded in the following format:
    - Position 1 will go to the first-place finisher from subflight #1, and will have a first-round bye.
    - Position 2 will be a bye position.
    - Position 3 will go to the second-place finisher from subflight #2, and will play Position 4 in the first round.

- Position 4 will go to the third-place finisher from subflight #1, and will play Position 3 in the first round.
- Position 5 will go to the third-place finisher from subflight #2, and will play Position 6 in the first round.
- Position 6 will go to the second-place finisher #2 from subflight #1, and will play Position 5 in the first round.
- Position 7 will be a bye position.
- Position 8 will go to the first-place finisher from subflight #2, and will have a first-round bye. (In order to determine which flight is Flight #1 and which is Flight #2, the level coordinator will put the names of the two flights on separate sheets of paper, put them in a container, and select one sheet from the container. That will be Flight #1.)

III. **Three Flights.** When there are three flights in a division, the play-off format will depend upon the number of teams from the LCTA that will participate in the South Carolina Combo Doubles State Championships. If only one LCTA team will participate in the State Championships, that team will be determined during a single play-off match involving the top team in each subflight. If the LCTA receives two entries to the State Championships, the final placement of the top four teams will be determined during a play-off in a single elimination, eight-draw tournament format consisting of the top two teams from each flight. The first-place team will be the winner of the play-off. The second-place team will be the losing finalist of the play-off. The third-place team will be the winner of a match between the two losing semi-finalists of the play-off. The fourth-place team will be the loser of a match between the two losing semi-finalists of the play-off. The teams will be seeded in the following format:

- Position 1 will go to the first-place finisher Flight #1, and will have a first-round bye.
- Position 2 will be a bye position.
- Position 3 will go to second-place finisher from Flight #2, and will play Position 4 in the first round.
- Position 4 will go to second-place finisher from Flight #3, and will play Position 3 in the first round.
- Position 5 will go to second-place finisher Flight #1, and will play Position 6 in the first round.
- Position 6 will go to first-place finisher from Flight #3, and will play Position 5 in the first round.
- Position 7 will be a bye position.
- Position 8 will go to first place finisher from Flight #2, and will have a first-round bye. (In order to determine which flights are Flights #1, #2, and #3, the level coordinator will put the names of the three flights on separate sheets of paper, put them in a container, and select

one sheet from the container. That will be Flight #1. The level coordinator will then select, in turn, Flights #2 and #3 from the remaining sheets of paper.)

- IV. **Four Flights.** When there are four flights in a division, the final placement of the top four teams will be determined during a single elimination, eight draw, tournament format play-off involving the top two teams in each flight. The teams will be seeded in the following format:

- Position 1 will go to the first-place finisher in Flight #1, and will play position #2 in the first round.
- Position 2 will go to the second-place finisher in Flight #4, and will play Position #1 in the first round.
- Position 3 will go to the second-place finisher in Flight #2, and will play Position #4 in the first round.
- Position 4 will go to the first-place finisher in Flight #3, and will play Position #3 in the first round.
- Position 5 will go to the first-place finisher in Flight #2, and will play Position #6 in the first round.
- Position 6 will go to the second-place finisher in Flight #3, and will play Position #5 in the first round.
- Position 7 will go to the second-place finisher in Flight #1, and will play Position #8 in the first round.
- Position 8 will go to the first-place finisher in Flight #4, and will play Position #7 in the first round.

(In order to determine which flights are Flights #1, #2, #3, and #4, the level coordinator will put the names of the four flights on separate sheets of paper, put them in a container, and select one sheet from the container. That will be Flight #1. The level coordinator will then select, in turn, Flights #2, #3, and #4 from the remaining sheets of paper.)

- V. **Play-Off Sites.** The selection of the play-off site(s) is the responsibility of the Combo Coordinator. All matches will be played at one or more central sites.

**Play-Off Dates.** For all flights/subflights having play-offs, the play-offs will be held **September 12-15, 2024** at Mt. Pleasant Recreation Dept. If it becomes necessary to change these dates, all captains will be notified

## 2.01H(2) Team Match and Scoring

- a. Each team match in the Lowcountry Tennis Association shall consist of three individual doubles matches.

- b. The team winning the majority of the individual matches in a team match shall be awarded one team point.
- c. Flight standings at the end of the regular season shall be in the order of the number of team points won, i.e., the winner of the flight competition shall be the team with the most team points at the end of the season, etc. In the event that two or more teams in a flight/subflight have the same number of team points at the end of the season, the tie shall be broken in the following manner:
  - i. Winner of the most individual matches during the season.
  - ii. Head-to-Head competition.
  - iii. Loser of the fewest number of sets during the season.
  - iv. Loser of the fewest number of games during the season.
- d. During playoff round robins, the positions of the teams at the end of the round robin shall be determined in the same manner as during flight competition except that only matches played during the playoff round robin will be used to determine team points, individual matches won, sets lost and games lost.
- e. Recording and Reporting Scores
  - i. Match scores are to be entered into TennisLink within 48 hours of the end of the match. While either team may enter the score, it is recommended that the captain or co-captain of the winning team enter the score.
  - ii. If match scores are not entered into TennisLink within 48 hours, a team will receive one warning. Any additional occurrences of not entering the score within 48 hours of match completion will result in the match being excluded when determining the division/flight standings.
  - iii. The captain of the losing team (or the team not entering the results in TennisLink) will verify that the scores have been entered correctly. The verifying captain will either confirm, through TennisLink, that the match score as reported is accurate, or will dispute the score if he/she believes an error has been made and that the reported score is incorrect.

- iv. The verification of the match score must be completed within 48 hours of the score being entered into TennisLink. After 48 hours, the reported score will be assumed to be correct, and there will be no opportunity to correct a score even if it is wrong.
- v. It is strongly recommended that the two captains compare scores at the end of the match in order to decrease the potential of an erroneous score being entered in TennisLink.

#### 2.01H(4) TEAM LINEUPS

- a. Strength sheets will not be used by the Lowcountry Tennis Association.
- b. The two team captains shall exchange their team lineups in writing simultaneously, prior to the beginning of the team match but no later than the scheduled start time of the match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, disqualification or no-show of a player. In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the lineup has been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. If no substitution can be made, the affected position will be defaulted except as noted in paragraph 2.01(4)(c) below. If a team has a default, the opposing team will have the opportunity to adjust their scorecard by moving the third-place position to the second-place position.
- c. If two players in the lineup, not playing with each other, do not show, then the two partners who did show will form a partnership, if it is an otherwise valid partnership, and play together in the higher lineup position.
- d. **Starting Match Play.** All individual matches will begin (i.e., the first serve will be made) within fifteen minutes of the scheduled start time. All warm-ups, including service warm-ups, must be concluded prior to fifteen minutes after the scheduled start time. (Exception: All players will be allowed a five-minute warm-up even if this means starting the match after the mandatory start time.) Captains that exchange lineups after the posted start time / begin play later than 15 minutes after the posted start time are in violation of LCTA rules and therefore subject to grievance, which can even be filed by captains of teams who play after your matches are over. We encourage Captains to exchange lineups 5 minutes before the scheduled match time so the matches can begin. There are two situations that a delay in starting play MAY be accommodated:
  - i. An unexpected, verifiable public situation (major accident, road closed, traffic re-routed) if the player communicates with their captain and the captain is able to communicate the situation to the other captain by scheduled start time. The late

player is to stay in communication in transit. The delay will be considered for that position(s) only. All other matches shall start within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time. The maximum waiting time before default is 30 minutes after scheduled match time.

ii. Courts are not available to begin any of the matches.

e. **Defaults.**

- i. A team default occurs when a team captain cannot field at least two of the three positions for a team match.
- ii. Defaults must be given "from the bottom" except as provided for in paragraph 2.01H(4)(b) above, i.e., the No. 3 doubles must be defaulted before the No. 2 doubles, and the No. 2 doubles must be defaulted before the No. 1 doubles may be defaulted.
- iii. To receive a win by default, the non-defaulting player or players must be present on court, ready to play; however, if a team captain advises his/her opponent in advance of the default, he/she, in effect, waives the requirement for the non-defaulting player(s) to be present in order to receive the default.
- iv. If a captain is advised prior to the match that the opponent must default one or more positions and that captain knows that he/she would also have had to default a position, it is incumbent upon that captain to demonstrate good sportsmanship and declare a double default rather than to accept the win.
- v. If a team defaults an individual match during or prior to the line-up exchange, and inclement weather forces the match to be postponed before a point is played in any individual match, then the default is cancelled.
- vi. If both teams default the same position, neither team will receive a win and the scorecard will indicate a double default.
- vii. If a team defaults an excessive number of matches, i.e., more than 20% of its scheduled individual matches, during the season, none of that team's individual matches for the entire season--both those matches already played and those matches yet to be played--will count in the league results. (Example: If there are



ten scheduled matches for a team, there will be thirty scheduled individual matches. If a team were to default 6 or more individual matches, none of the team's individual matches for the entire season would count.)

- viii. By joining the Lowcountry Tennis Association, a team is making a commitment to play every match. If, however, circumstances dictate that a team cannot field at least two positions, then the entire match must be defaulted. If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason, then all matches of that team played, or to be played, shall be null and void when determining standings. Defaulted matches received will be used for qualifying purposes for players advancing to Championship play.

If all teams in contention for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches stand as played. In either case, defaulted matches received will be used for qualifying purposes for players advancing to Championship play. If there is a full team default in a double or triple round robin, only the RR tier/segments that have the full team default will be impacted. Each of the Round Robin segments will be treated as whole and separate within the local league flight. If the first RR was finished and the full team default occurred during the 2nd RR then all matches for the first RR would stand. If all teams in contention had played the defaulting team, those matches would stay in the system. Teams that default an entire match are expected to play the remainder of their schedule. A grievance will be filed against a team that is assessed a team default.

- ix. A grievance may be filed against any team which defaults an excessive number of its individual matches or which defaults an entire team match. The situation will be assessed by the Statewide Local League Grievance Committee and penalties imposed as appropriate. Penalties could include barring the team and/or its players from participating in future Lowcountry Tennis Association league tennis play for some specific period of time.

#### **2.01(H)(5) Player Participation**

Individuals may play at the same level on more than one team in South Carolina in the Southern 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over or 65 & Over Combo Doubles League. Individuals may play on multiple teams in the Lowcountry Tennis Association as long as those teams compete at different levels of play. An individual may also compete on an 18 & Over Combo Doubles League team, a 40 & Over Combo Doubles League team, a 55 & Over Combo Doubles League team, and/or a 65 & Over Combo Doubles League at the same level of play.

Players who qualify for South Carolina Combo Doubles State League Championships may advance on more than one 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over or 65 & Over team at different levels in the **2024** Combo Doubles League State Championships. Players who qualify for Southern Sectional Championships may advance on more than one 18 & Over, one 40 & Over, one 55 & Over team. No scheduling accommodations will be made for players playing on more than one team at Championships.

## 2.01J Inclement Weather

### 2.01J(1) INCLEMENT WEATHER DURING THE REGULAR SEASON

- a. It is the responsibility of the home team captain to determine if inclement weather conditions warrant the postponement of a regular season team match. If teams have assembled and have started play or are waiting to start play, they should be prepared to wait one hour to determine if the courts are playable. It is recommended that the home team captain consult with the visiting team captain prior to making the "play/no play" decision, especially if match play has already begun.
- b. If match play has not begun (i.e., no individual match has started), the team captains will decide, within 48 hours, on a mutually agreeable make-up date and inform the level coordinator. This make-up date must be within two weeks of the scheduled date of the postponed match (within 72 hours, if at the end of the season and it affects who will participate in local league playoffs.) If the two captains cannot mutually agree on a make-up date that will be within the 14 days, the match is automatically set by the league for the first following Saturday at 2:00 PM at the Home Team courts location. Captains are encouraged to play all positions at the same time, just as they would in a regularly scheduled match; however, this is not a requirement. Team lineups on the make-up day do not have to be the same as they were on the day of the postponement even if the lineups had already been exchanged, and any defaults given during or prior to the line-up exchange are cancelled. Once the make-up dates are established, those are considered to be the official match dates and they are not able to be postponed unless there is inclement weather on those dates. The coordinator should be informed of the makeup date to be changed in TennisLink. If the match is rained out on the makeup date, the 2-week rule is reset from the date that was communicated to the coordinator. If the coordinator is not informed, the teams will be held to the 2-week makeup from the original match date.

If one team shows for a team or an individual match and the other does not, the match will be recorded as a default by the team that did not show. If neither team shows for

the agreed upon make-up date or the league set date, the match will be scored a double forfeit. If the two teams double forfeit the entire match in this manner, this will result in all matches for **both** teams being null and void as per 2.01(H)(4)(viii). If one or more individual positions are double forfeited (while others are played), it will result in both teams losing one individual match, two sets and twelve games for each double defaulted match. If it rains on Saturday, the match is rescheduled for the following Saturday at 2:00 pm unless both captains agree to another day and/or time prior to that. Coordinators have the responsibility to ensure these requirements are met.

- c. If match play has begun (i.e., at least one point played in one individual match), completed matches will stand as played, incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point score as when play was halted, and matches not started will be played by the individuals listed on the line-up without any substitutions. Defaults given prior or during the line-up exchange will stand. The incomplete matches or unstarted matches do not have to be played at the same time and date, but can be arranged by the individuals involved in each of the individual matches. The decision when individual matches will be resumed must be made within 48 hours and the matches played within 14 days (within 72 hours if at the end of the season and it affects who will participate in the local league playoffs) or the match will be set by the league automatically on the first following Saturday at 2:00 PM at the Home Team courts. Once the make-up dates are established and the Combo coordinator is informed, those are considered to be the official match date and are not postponable unless there is inclement weather on those dates. If one or both teams in an individual match do not show to play on the agreed upon or league established make-up date, there are three possible outcomes:
- i. If an individual match had started prior to the inclement weather and if one team shows for the make-up match and the other does not, that position will be recorded as a retirement by the team that did not show, with the score being entered as it was when play was interrupted;
  - ii. If an individual match had not started prior to the inclement weather and if one team shows for the makeup match and the other does not, that position will be recorded as a default by the team that did not show;
  - iii. If neither team shows for the match, the individual match will be scored as a double forfeit. This will result in **both** teams losing one individual match, two sets and twelve games.

If it rains on Saturday, the match is rescheduled for the following Saturday at 2:00 pm unless the players involved agree to another day and/or time prior to that. Coordinators have the responsibility to ensure these requirements are met.

## 2.01J(2) INCLEMENT WEATHER DURING PLAYOFFS

- a. During playoffs, it is the responsibility of the Combo Doubles Coordinator to decide when a match must be postponed due to inclement weather. There is no maximum wait time, but it is at the discretion of those Coordinators to decide when players should be released.
- b. Make-up times and dates for postponed playoff matches will be determined by the Combo Doubles Coordinator. Completed matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game, and point score as when play was halted. In the event that the postponement begins prior to the start (playing at least one point) of an individual match, the line-ups may be changed and defaults given during or prior to the line-up exchange are cancelled. Every effort will be made to play the make-up no later than the following day, subject to court availability. (It may be necessary to shift playoff sites and court surfaces.) All postponed individual matches whether in progress or not at the time of postponement will recommence at the same time.

## 2.01K REGISTRATION

2.01K(1) Teams will register for play in the LCTA **2024** Southern 18 & Over Combo Doubles, 40 & Over Combo Doubles, 55 & Over Combo Doubles and 65 & Over Combo Doubles Leagues by entering their rosters in TennisLink, beginning **May 18, 2024** and no later than **June 7, 2024**. No new teams may be established after that date unless a waiver is received from the Combo Doubles Coordinator.

2.01K(2) In order for a roster to be considered valid on **June 7, 2024**, it must have at least six players, and at least three eligible partnerships. (2.01E(3)) Each team must have a minimum of three **AT LEVEL** partnerships registered. For example, a 7.5 team must have at least three 3.5 players and at least three 4.0 players.

2.01K(3) A player may be added to a team roster until the date of that team's last scheduled match in the regular season.

2.01K(4) A player may not play for a team until the player has been entered on the roster. If a player is not on the roster at the start time of a team match and plays in that match, the individual match will be considered to be a default.

2.01K(5) To be listed on a roster, a player must:

- a. Be a paid-up member of the USTA. (In accordance with USTA/SC regulations, all players for the 2024 season must have their memberships paid-up through the LCTA local league season, including State Championship (see 2.03B). TennisLink will not allow a player to be added to the roster if this requirement is not met.
- b. Pay a **\$20.15** fee through TennisLink. This fee is collected each time a player's name appears on a roster. This fee is not refundable for any reason.

## **2.01L RESCHEDULING DUE TO CONFLICTING EVENTS**

During the season, it is quite possible that a team will have a scheduled match that conflicts with championship play (i.e., LCTA Local Championships, State Championships, Sectional Championships, or National Championships) or play on a team that is representing the LCTA in tennis competition (such as the Southern Cities Championship). In such circumstances, if the team has three or more players (two or more players for a team with 7 or fewer players on the roster) participating in such championship level play or on a team representing the LCTA, then the captain of the team may request that the match be rescheduled and the request must be granted by the opposing captain. When that occurs, the captains should make every effort to reschedule the match to a date prior to the originally scheduled date. If that is not possible, then the rescheduling must occur as indicated in paragraph 2.01J(1)(b) for a match that is totally postponed due to rain. (If a league match is scheduled to be played in the morning and the competing event is a local league playoff match to be scheduled at 5:00 p.m. or later, that does not constitute a conflict for the purposes of this rule. Neither does this rule apply to conflicts with local sanctioned or unsanctioned tournaments though captains may opt to reschedule such matches if mutually agreeable to both captains.) Players may play on more than one team during local playoffs but no accommodation shall be given for scheduling purposes.

## **2.03 AREA, SECTIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **2.03A(1) ELIGIBILITY**

A player must play in at least 1 Local League match in order to qualify to play at USTA SC Combo 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement). Local Playoffs are championships, not part of the local season.

Defaults given do not count towards meeting this requirement, but retirements, whether received or given, **do** count towards the one match requirement.

## 2.03B CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

The LCTA Local Championships will be held **September 12-15, 2024** at Mount Pleasant Recreation Department on Whipple Road in Mount Pleasant.

The USTA/South Carolina State Southern Combo Doubles Championships:

***Combo 55/65 & Over November 2-4, 2024 in Aiken, SC.***

***Combo 40 & Over October 25-27, 2024 in Florence, SC.***

***Combo 18 & Over October 26-28, 2024 in Florence, SC.***

The date and location for the USTA/Southern Section Southern Combo Doubles Championships is ***December 6-9, 2024 in Mobile, AL***

## 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

### 3.01 GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS

#### 3.01A GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS DURING LCTA REGULAR SEASON

1. Grievance complaints may be filed not only for infractions of the regulations but also for failing to abide by good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. Such grievances must be filed in writing with Local League Coordinator prior to commencement of the next team match involving such player or team, or within 24 hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first, except a complaint based on ineligibility may be filed at any time after learning the person is ineligible.

***All grievances and grievance appeals will be handled by the Statewide Local League Grievance Committee, see committee members below. A chairman and 2 members of the committee will serve on each individual grievance or grievance appeal. Local grievance committee members will not serve on any grievance or grievance appeal from their area.***

***A \$100 filing fee will be required for all General/Sportsmanship, Championship and/or Administrative Grievance. The filing fee will only be returned to the grieving party if the grievance is upheld.***

***USTA SC League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committee***

***James Teal – Co-Chair Grievance Committee  
Scott Zobrist – Co-Chair Grievance Committee***

***Debby Bosselman – Chair – Grievance Appeals Committee***

***Local League Representatives***

***Jeannette Hammers (AATL)***

***Jonathan Watkins (BBTL)***

***Toni Odom (CTL)***

***Malinda Griffin (FTA)***

***Abby Martin (GATA)***

***Susie Honeycutt (GSTL)***

***Sue Cook (HHTL)***

***Thea Salmonson (LATA)***

***Art Welling (LCTA)***

***Becky Williamson (LCTA)***

***Chris Jones (LCTA)***

***Stephanie Stanton (MCTL)***

***Kim Northcutt (PD)***

***Frank***

***Thompson (SATL)***

***Terri Errington (UPTA)***

***Please note that a chairman and 2 committee members will be assigned to handle each grievance or grievance appeal but will not be assigned to any grievance or grievance appeal from their local area.***

***The decision of the Statewide Local League Grievance Committee may be appealed to the League Grievance Appeals Committee.***

***The decision of the League Grievance Appeals Committee is final and binding.***

### **3.01B GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS DURING LCTA PLAYOFFS**

- 1. Filing a Grievance.** Grievance complaints may be filed during LCTA Playoffs. A complaint against an individual or team may only be filed by the team captain of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred, the league coordinator, or the Playoff Director. These complaints must be submitted, in writing,

within 30 minutes of the end of the team match to the Playoff Director (or his/her designated representative). When such a grievance is filed, the next round of play will be delayed for all teams until the grievance is decided.

2. **Playoff Grievance Committee.** Prior to the playoff, a three-person Playoff Grievance Committee will be designated, and the captains participating in the playoff will be advised of its composition. Normally, the Playoff Director will be one of the members of the Committee. Members of the Playoff Grievance Committee need not be at the site during the playoffs, but must be available by telephone throughout the playoff competition. Whenever possible, the Playoff Grievance Committee should meet at the playoff site if a grievance is filed, but participation by telephone is allowed, if necessary. The decision of the Playoff Grievance Committee shall be by majority vote.
3. **Filing an Appeal.** Any party to a grievance complaint may appeal the decision, in writing, within 30 minutes following the rendering of the grievance committee decision. Prior to the playoff, a three-person Playoff Grievance Appeal Committee will be designated, and the captains participating in the playoff will be advised of its composition. Members of the Playoff Grievance Appeal Committee need not be at the site during the playoffs, but must be available by telephone throughout the playoff competition. Whenever possible, the Playoff Grievance Appeal Committee should meet at the playoff site if a grievance appeal is filed, but participation by telephone is allowed, if necessary. The decision of the Playoff Grievance Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote and is final and binding. Play will not recommence until the Grievance Appeal is decided.

### 3.02 GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS CONCERNING LCTA LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

All grievances against the Lowcountry Tennis Association administration of the USTA League Tennis Program wherein the complaint alleges that a coordinator or committee has violated National, Sectional, State or Local Regulations will be handled by the USTA State of South Carolina Leagues Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees.

### 3.03 SELF-RATE GRIEVANCE

Self-rated players who enter the USTA League Tennis Program by misrepresenting their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship, and may be subject to a grievance complaint and possible disqualification. Grievances against such players may be filed by the Local League Coordinator, a team captain, or a tournament committee. Such grievances will be reviewed and decided by a Self-Rate Eligibility Grievance Committee appointed and convened by the Section League Coordinator. These complaints should be first delivered to the Local League Coordinator, who will forward



